WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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PRETEXTS.

At first with darts of deceit they will darken the light of day;
And next they will flatter and soothe, yet even the cause gainsay.
Then, deadliest of all, they will proffer compromise
With sham reforms and pensions to blind the workers' eyes;
They will even offer the toiler half of all he owns;
They will wheedle and plead and "reason" in dulcet Judas tones;
They will talk of "love for country," "Religion" and "home" and "God,"
And be anxious o'er the condition of the toilers they defraud;
They'll pretend to share the profit nor still expedients lack—
They'll resort to any pretext to keep on the People's back!
But hold to the battle, comrades, nor yield, whate'er befall,
Till the Red Flag floats in triumph o'er the last broken wall!

—HARRY KEMP, in the *Coming Nation*.

The Passing Show.

CONDUCTED BY OTUS.

N.S.W. Labor Government's Amended Income Tax Bill has again been amended to meet the wishes of the House of Fat Landlords, Mr. Dacey undertaking not to exceed the 1911 rates. The amending Bill exempts companies from paying income tax on shareholders' dividends, etc. Speaking in support of the measure, our "Labor" Treasurer complained that "the cry here was that the Labor Government had gone out of its way to attack capital." He quoted figures to prove the contrary, and declared that "it was exceedingly unfair to be attributing unworthy motives of that character to the present Government. He objected to the charge that the Labor Party was actuated by class bias or prejudice. He repudiated such an assertion, which was not borne out by facts." Mr. Dacey is correct. The "Labor" Party has never yet gone out of its way to attack Capital. It is the economic interests of Capital that our "Labor" Party safeguards. This is why the Socialists are pledged to fight the Labor Party along with all other parties of the Master Class.

After reading Mr. Arthur Griffith's evidence before the High Rents Commission, one is constrained to wonder what the Commission was appointed for. Mr. Griffith related how he had bought a piece of land for £180, and had erected a pair of pretty cottages on it for £998 16s 2d, for which he was getting a £1 a week each, returning him only 7½ per cent on his investment, and only 2½ if 5 per cent. were deducted for depreciation. According to Mr. Griffith (who helped to appoint the Commission), landlords who build now cannot get interest on the money they invest! (If this is so, where does the need for a High Rents Commission come in?)

Under Labor Party rule! Patrick Flanagan, a unionist, was fined £2 at Lismore for calling a scab "a dirty scab." Yet, when C. G. Wade publicly referred to Speaker Willis as a scab no action was taken.

Certain North Coast steamers were recently loaded by scab labor at Lismore, and were unloaded by Sydney unionists. Secretary Harrison, of the Sydney wharf-laborers, "scoffs at the idea of this constituting blacklegging," and holds that, because two years ago boats scab-freighted at Sydney were unloaded by Lismore men, the Sydney men are now justified in taking out cargo put in by scab labor at Lismore. "It would be against the interests of the union to sacrifice the agreement that had been come to with the Coastal S.S. Owners' Association for the sake of a handful of men," said Mr. Harrison, who would thus rather see union men taking on scab work than have an agreement with the bosses broken.

Craft union officials in N.S.W. are less union officials than they are special police under the Arbitration Law, largely filling in time by travelling around and serving summonses on employers who evade the various awards (and nearly every employer evades the award now), and occasionally inflicting fines on their own—the employer often paying up privately to escape greater expense in court. Sometimes those private fines find their way into the union coffers, and sometimes—THEY DON'T.

WANT AND MISERY.

When Legirons Wade reminded Treasurer Dacey that he (Dacey) had once referred to the small employing class among the farmers as cringers and whiners, Mr. Dacey almost wept tears of contrition, as he retorted that, "if on a certain bygone occasion his language had exceeded the limits of prudence, it was ungenerous to remind him of it."

The anniversary of Bloody Sunday (January 22, 1905) was celebrated in many parts of Russia by Labor demonstrations. At Nakolajev 2,000 shipbuilders struck work, and at Jekaterinoslav the dockers. At Riga a procession of workers carrying red flags and singing revolutionary songs marched through the town. Sanguinary conflicts with the police and many arrests were the result. At St. Petersburg large groups marched to the cemetery, where the graves of the victims of Bloody Sunday were covered with wreaths, from which the police abstracted the red ribbons.

Sydney *Bulletin* prints a par. reproving *Q. Worker* for jubilating over the fact that certain black workers wouldn't scab during the Brisbane strike, and reminds the *Worker* that "White Australia" is a plank of the L.P. platform. Which only proves, by the way, that the L.P. platform is anti-working-class. Some time ago, when a State Governor travelled to Queensland in a boat with a colored crew the *Bulletin* strongly protested, and insisted there were plenty of white-manned boats available. And now, before the echoes of the *Bulletin's* denunciation of *Q. Worker* have died away, comes the intimation that the *Bulletin's* managing-director has returned to Sydney by the P. and O. steamer Moldavia, *whose crew is black!*—not because the P. and O. people love the black man, but because as a wage-worker he is cheaper. This paper doesn't think its wrong for anyone to travel on a boat whose crew is black; but what it does think is that the incident emphasizes the utter hollowness of the whole "White Australia" frame-up, and that not even magistrate Clarke would be likely to find the *Bulletin* guilty if it were hauled before him on a charge of consistency.

The S.F.A. is a fighting party. Join it.

Sixty Vancouver "cadets" are to be paraded through Australia, in an endeavor to awaken the military spirit in the local juveniles.

Hillman (of the Sydney Milk and Ice Co.) was again before the court the other day, when the charge was dirty premises. Putrid milk an inch deep on the floor, filthy chilling room, rotten bags, mud, churns full of milk and milk full of flies, cans of ice-cream and custard and more flies and more dirt and more mud, a cornsack full of tins of rotten cream, bottles of putrid milk whose corks had been blown out as a result of putrefaction, cotton waste saturated with dirty water, and bits of rotten sacking, together with stink that hummed, were among the tit-bits Dr. Armstrong said he found on the premises. Milk and ice-cream for the workers and the workers' children! What do you think? The £20 fine inflicted was as a flea-bite to an elephant.

Socialists in the Duma protested against the visit of the English Parliamentarians, who fraternised with the reactionaries. The Socialists say they would be glad to see a rapproachement between the peoples of Russia and England, but will not take part in a reception such as this, which will be no use for bringing about such a rapprochement, especially just now when both their Governments are engaged in oppressing the Persian people. A million peasants, the Socialist Party reminds us, are dying of hunger in Russia, and the people and the Government constitute two hostile camps.

The discussion started in the daily press by Labor-member Carr on "Democracy and Economics," reveals the awful mix-up that exists in the P.L.L. mind concerning the working-class position, and furnishes in Mr. Carr and the P.L.L.-ers who combat his confused ideas an awful example of the perplexed philosophers that grow in the P.L.L. garden.

The slaves are being taught that they *are* slaves. At the Burwood police court Henry King (a lad) was fined 26s, with 14 days' jail for alternative, for leaving his owner, otherwise called his employer, without giving notice.

Two sample letters:

From Clifton (4.3.12): "Am enclosing 8d in stamps for another propaganda bundle of THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST. Will, later on, procure subscribers from this part. Encourage the slaves to read the right stuff, and their mental illumination must soon follow."

From Parkes (3.3.12): "You will find enclosed 2s in stamps for three dozen copies of the paper of Feb. 24 and March 2 for propaganda purposes."

Read the above, and then do likewise. Send 8d. in stamps for a dozen copies, and drop them where they'll explode.

All industrial agreements with the bosses for fixed periods are agreements to scab. They should never be made; but, if they are made, any section of the working-class should be honest enough to break them whenever working-class interests are to be served by doing so. It's better to break all the agreements and all the laws that were ever made than it is to scab.

In answer to a question before the High Rents Commission, "Labor"-member Arthur Griffith said: "I CAN ONLY SPEAK FOR MOSMAN AND MANLY." Mosman and Manly are where the workers *don't* live. Arthur couldn't possibly be expected to know anything about where the workers do live—Broken Hill, for instance.

N.S.W. Labor Government is furnishing its police with a new bludgeon. "Having no handle or broad end, the baton can be more readily used," it is announced. "The chief recommendation of the new baton is that, while it is heavy enough to stun a man or knock him down, it is not liable to kill." We guess that a bludgeon that will stun a man will also kill him if the bludgeoner only hits as hard, say, as Detective Roche is alleged to have done on a bygone occasion. But what of the Labor Government that arms policemen with bludgeons that are heavy enough to stun men and knock them down?

For speaking at Balmain, magistrate Clarke sentenced J. W. Roche to a month's hard labor. For treating a horse with cruelty by working it when it was suffering with raw sores on the back, the same stipendiary the other day sentenced a man also to a month's hard labor. Therefore, according to Mr. Clarke's sentences, it's as great a crime for a Socialist to preach the economic truth on the street as it is for another man to cruelly torture a dumb animal.

A Broken Hill Proprietary Co. "statement" (for one man in a "contract party"): Earnings, 13.18 tons at 4s, £2 12s 9d. Deductions—explosives, stores, etc., £1 7s 8d; 10 per cent. retained, 5s 3d; propn. check weigher's wages, 1s 1d; total, £1 14s; net balance, 18s 9d—FOR ONE WEEK'S WORK! Eight shifts were worked, and the earnings per man per shift (of eight hours) were 2s 4.12d.

Sydney Labor Council's desire to prevent strikes is cordially approved by Mr. Fisher. Nevertheless, the strike will come as long as the cause of strikes remains, and the Labor Party might as well try to stop Gregory Wade from moving his daily censure motion or W. M. Hughes from doing scab work for the employers as a strike-wrecker or the craft unions affiliated with Sydney Labor Council from scabbing on one another, as to stop men from striking under existing conditions.

A "pleasant gathering" of scabs took place at Brisbane the other day, when the men who blacklegged on the wharves were each handed thirty pieces of silver as an honorarium from the slave-owners, and the "leaders" of the scabs thanked the bosses for the nice way they had been treated, and assured them that "if it was necessary to come [to scab] again, the farmers and their sons would only be too ready to respond."

There is no Socialist in Parliament in New Zealand. It would be quite as correct to call a cross-eyed bandicoot a kangaroo-lion as to call Labor-member Robertson a Socialist. Neither is there any man in any Australian Parliament who could be correctly described as a Socialist—for every Labor member, whether in Federal or State Parliament, is compelled to subscribe to an objective that is non-Socialist and a program that is essentially anti-Socialist.

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The materialist conception of history is not only important because it allows us to explain history better than has been done up to now, but also because it enables us to make history better than has been hitherto done.—KAUTSKY.

The Great Coal War.

BY H. E. HOLLAND.

GREAT lessons for the working class are being written into the sensational history of the British coal strike. The decrepit *S. M. Herald*, in its utter despair of the situation from the viewpoint of the owning class, seeks to make for its own gashed feelings a salve of consolation, mixed into the following absurdity:

> One of the most surprising features of recent industrialism is the decline of the Socialists, who, after all, rely on the State for amelioration, and the rise of the Syndicalists, who rely openly on class war, and expect nothing but an anarchy of industry, in which their own class may possibly come to the top.

It would be waste of time and space to dilate upon the stupidity responsible for the assertion that "Socialists rely on the State for amelioration," while the Sandicalists "expect nothing but an anarchy of industry," etc. An ordinary schoolboy would hardly write such a comedy of errors as the *Herald* presents to us in that paragraph. If by "Socialists" the members of the British Labor Party (who are not Socialists any more than the Australian Laborites are) are meant, it may be allowed to pass. The Socialist movement fights on the political battlefield, not because it relies on the State for amelioration, but to revolutionize the State. The Syndicalist movement, which is only an advanced form of craft unionism anyhow, according to an official statement published in the January *Syndicalist*, does not wish to bring into existence some organization or society to take the place of the existing trades union movement," but simply desires to "facilitate its development towards real solidarity and direct action lines." It is proposed to do this by boring from within. British Syndicalism is not anti-political—it declares itself as non-political. Whatever there is of aggressiveness and scientific class knowledge in it represents the ripening fruit of Socialist propaganda. It is a long, long way behind the revolutionary Socialist movement; indeed, it may be said to mark a section of the working class in a transition stage between the old craft order and the new revolutionary order. So far from indicating the "decline" of Socialism, it points to the success of Socialist propaganda as against the opportunism of "Labor-in-Politics-on-the-make" and conservative, sectional trades unionism. It is the shadow of the handwriting on the wall for the strike-breaking "Labor" politician.

Socialist and Syndicalist alike urges the utter foolishness, not to say criminality, of working men helping to save the bosses' property from destruction while the bosses are trying to starve the workers' wives and children to death. And we read in the cables that a Labor member, who is also an official of the Derbyshire miners, declared before the strike that they "would only allow sufficient work to be done to maintain pumping operations." We find that under the influence of this class of leader resolutions to this effect were passed in Scotland, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire. It is gratifying to learn that in some instances at least the miners have refused to keep the property safe, and that as a result some of the mines are in danger of being flooded. This is as it should be. The boss should be told to pump his own mine dry whenever a strike is on. When the profit-maker beholds the primary source of his social stealings being ruined by the rising water, with a prospect of his Life Without Work vanishing also, he will be more likely to agree to the miners' terms. (This is a fact the Maitland Miners would do well to remember.)

Then, while the Socialists and the Syndicalists have been telling the railway workers—and QUITE PROPERLY TELLING THEM—that they should refuse to carry soldiers to strike centres, for the shooting of the miners, the Railway Unions Executives are warning railway men that they MUST NOT REFUSE to carry troops to the strike centres. In other words, the executives are insisting that the railway unionists must perform the most villainous form of scab work.

* * *

The Syndicalists of Great Britain, collectively speaking, are not revolutionary Socialists, although they have Socialists in their ranks. Collectively speaking, they are not Industrial Unionists. But their general attitude in connection with the coal war is a sound one. Those of them who are anti-political are probably only so because they fail to grasp the fact that the Class State is a political State, and that every class struggle is a political struggle—a fact that makes it imperative that the revolutionary forces of the working class shall fight on the political field.

* * *

William Liebknecht, probably the greatest fighting figure the world has ever seen on the revolutionary political field, fully recognised, and never hesitated to declare, that a majority of votes alone could not revolutionise Society and the State, and he also said that even if the Socialists elected a majority of the members of the Reichstag, the military could drive them out of the temple if they did not have the economic power of the organised workers to back up their victory at the polls. "Let us participate in the elections as vigorously as ever, but only as a means of propaganda, and let us not fail to emphasise that the ballot-box can never be the cradle of the Socialist State," he said. And so say the revolutionary Socialists of England, of Australia, of the world.

* * *

Socialists and others who advocate political action alone are wrong. Syndicalists and others who advocate industrial action only are wrong. The two must go together, the political reflecting the industrial. On the industrial field one big revolutionary union; on the political field one big revolutionary Socialist Party.

However the present British coal struggle ends, it will be in this direction its lessons will point; and because of those lessons the revolutionary Socialist movement will be more solid, and stronger, and nearer the great day of victory.

Answers to Correspondents.

SOCIUS, Broken Hill.—Next issue.

G.A., Howard, Q.; A. McI., Clifton; C.C., Jamestown, S.A.—Received. Thanks.

P.J.C., Surry Hills. The reason a member of the P.L.L. can't be a member of the S.F.A. is that a rule of the S.F.A., adopted by Conference, prevents it. Principle also prevents it.

F. L. MINAHOO.—Next issue. Verses mislaid. Would like you to a ain forward.

A.J.P. (and five others), Glenbrook.—Received 6s for Balmain Free Speech Defence Fund. Thanks.

F.M., Randwick.—Writing.

Arms and the Socialist.

BY W.R.W.

II.

LET us turn now to the men who are leading our Labor Ministers and their supporting Laborites and declared anti-militarists—the men whom our delegates to the Imperial Conference met and agreed with, and to whom they are traitorously selling their supporters.

Foremost amongst the British advocates of conscription is Earl Roberts, familiarly known as "Bobs." The imagination of the boyish lover of battles and adventure is always excited by the name of "Bobs," the "hero of Candahar and South Africa." "Bobs'" book, containing a record of his life, adventures, battles, heroism, and patriotism, is widely circulated amongst the youth of the empire. It is a fine presentation volume for the unthinking, prospective soldier, a lure to the unwary, who thinks of throwing up a lucrative positive to go soldiering for a few pence a week, and also for the hungry and hopeless, who are unable to get the most poorly-paid job.

"Bobs" is a power in the fighting councils of the nation, and so keen on conscription that Viscount Haldane, when War Minister, told off General Ian Hamilton to report upon "Bobs'" defence proposals and compulsory training, as against the volunteer system. General Hamilton, in his report, is rather unfavorable to "Bobs'" idea, and his book can be freely quoted against compulsory training. Still "Bobs" pegs away at his theory, and has been immensely gratified and strengthened by Australia's adoption of his scheme. He showered blessings upon the Australian cadets during their recent visit to Britain, presented them with his book, and spoke of their fine appearance, and the glorious career they had in view as soldiers. He used his utmost influence upon the delegates to the Imperial Conference, and Sir "Joe" Ward, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Pearce, Mr. Batchelor, and General Botha were visibly impressed.

There are indications everywhere that "Bobs" will defeat the party headed by General Hamilton, and others, who favor a voluntary service, for "Bobs" has friends in all quarters, who are working strenuously with him.

His co-conspirators in Australia, through the Rev. H. J. Rose, senior chaplain of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth, recently got "Bobs" to send a message to stimulate the boys who are undergoing compulsory training in Australia.

The message was a fine sample of patriotic hypocrisy, well calculated to deceive the boys and those who are blind to the moves of the game, but it concluded with a sentence which should alarm all workers who support compulsory training under the impression that the citizen army is only to be used to defend their wives and children against the Asiatic hordes supposed to be seeking to annihilate them. "Bobs" said: "Ask them (the boys) to place this ideal before themselves, to accept their training eagerly, not grudgingly, and to remember that it is not only duty, but an honor and a privilege, to be able to defend their homes, their country, and the empire, should the necessity ever arrive."

The "defence of the empire," like charity, will cover a multitude of sins. It is such an elastic phrase that in the past it has covered some of Britain's most iniquitous wars, and, seemingly, it is not yet played out, but is destined to be of much use to present and future capitalistic cutthroats.

The "necessity" to defend "their homes, their country, and the empire" will be anywhere and everywhere when the war-mongers call. It will be useless to say hereafter that we supported compulsory training on the understanding that the Australian army and navy were never to be used abroad, for the leading advocates of the scheme are making it quite clear that they have other intentions.

Mr. Fisher, Federal Prime Minister, commenting upon a speech delivered in London, by Lord Dudley, on June 9, said:—"I AGREE WITH HIS VIEWS ON THE AUSTRALIAN NAVY—A SANE ATTITUDE FOR AUSTRALIANS TO ADOPT. THEY MUST HAVE SHIPS, AND FIGHT IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE MOTHER-COUNTRY. YOU CAN TAKE MY WORD FOR THAT."

There we have Mr. Fisher speaking on behalf of British Capitalism, and, if we may judge from his and Senator Pearce's utterances, our defence forces are already pledged to British militarists and Empire conspirators.

There is no difference between these Labor leaders and the leaders of the militarist Tory Empire League, whose president declared, on December 5, that: "The feeling of Imperial patriotism must be kept alive. We are going to ask for the help of some of the country's best men in this great patriotic work." Various other speakers, on the same occasion, delivered addresses on "Early Empire Builders," "Australia and the Empire," and "The British Flag in the Indian Ocean."

All these gentry are working to make Australian defence a part of Britain's scheme, and, apparently, they have succeeded in beating down any Labor opposition that might once have been of some effect. And we do not see those anti-militarist workers and Laborites who support compulsory training, making any protest against being led in the direction of complete military and industrial conscription. They believe in the armed nation for defence, and they are allowing themselves to be led by those who believe in the armed nation for attack, for there is one idea common to both compulsory and voluntary army advocates. It is voiced by General Ian Hamilton (page 148, "Compulsory Training"), who says: "But whatever you do, remember, I beg of you, that the best defence of a country is an army formed, trained, inspired by the idea of the attack. If I have succeeded in bringing prominently to your notice the dangers of the mere defence, then, indeed, I shall feel that I have not written in vain. Once we fall into that pitfall, once we begin to develop (and pay for) a 'tremendous potentiality for defence,' by just so much must we paralyse our own attack, sacrifice our initiative, and imperil all that we stand for in the world."

That represents the views of all militarists—we must be inspired by the idea of the attack; that somewhere, some day, we must attack some other nation. The idea of mere defence is suicide. What say those who advocate arms for the Socialists?

Broken Hill Notes.

BY WATCHER.

THE Hotel, Club, and Restaurant Employees of this city ceased work on Monday, Feb. 26, to force their employers to comply with their demands for shorter hours and increased wages, and by the following Wednesday they had gained a complete victory. Nearly 50 out of the 80 houses affected had signed the union log by Monday evening.

The girls on strike showed plenty of spirit. On Monday morning a section of the most militant got together and visited all the hotels and restaurants where there would be any likelihood of scab labor being employed. They succeeded in capturing 17 who had remained at work. The method adopted was as follows. The union girls would visit a likely house, get inside, search all the rooms, and if a week-kneed one was found he or she was brought along with them to the next place, and so on. A crowd of sympathisers ranging at different times from 500 to 1000 cheered the girls on. The officials of the union, it may be said, were conspicuous by their absence.

The Barrier Labor Federation, at the request of the H.C. and R.E.U., took over the control of the strike. All unionists were given to understand that if they remained in the houses that refused to sign the log, or drank in them, they would be considered scabs. Remarkably few remained, and, as for drinking in the pubs that refused to sign, several of these were compelled to close their doors, all the trade going to the houses that had signed.

Dick McCann, a P.L.L. delegate from the Carpenters Union, and an ex-delegate from the same union to the B.L.F., remained at Hillier's Commercial Hotel during the trouble. The union has not yet dealt with him.

The Liquor Trades Union refused to handle or cart any goods for houses that had not signed the log.

The Municipal Employees refused to carry on the sanitary arrangements at the non-union houses. Result: Many of the conveniences overflowed. The Breadcarters were also ready to make common cause.

A mass meeting of about 3000 was held at the Trades Hall on Monday evening, when several speakers, including comrade Considine, addressed the crowd, and pointed out the need for working-class solidarity if they wanted to win.

Billy Barnett, A.M.A. secretary, speaking in reference to the employers' offer to refer the dispute to the Wages Board, said: "To hell with Wages Boards. They are no good to the workers." Some one interjected: "How about the Arbitration Court, Billy?" "That, too, is a fallacy, and requires the workers to parade their poverty before it." Solid goods! "Watcher" hopes Billy will always be of that opinion.

The right to work 56 and 58 hours a week seems hardly worth fighting for, but compared to the conditions worked prior to the strike, it is a distinct gain. For instance, before the trouble, a girl at the Masons' Hotel was receiving 12s 6d for 60 hours. Now she gets 35s for 56 hours. Barmaids, before the strike, 25s to 30s for 60 to 70 hours; after, 40s for 56 hours. But still this does not alter the fact that 56 hours are excessive, and the H.C. and R. workers ought to make up their minds to come into line with all other workers here, and demand 48 hours.

The fallacy of craft or sectional unionism was again demonstrated. Instead of there being only one big union in the industry of food supply, we find the following unions organised into crafts or sections in the one industry: Liquor Trades Union, Bread Carters' Union, Butchers' Employees' Union, Operative Bakers Union, Hotel, Club, and Restaurant Employees Union, Shop Assistants Union. Instead of the workers having one union, and making common cause, and being powerful industrially, we see the opposite.—3.3.12.

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Sedition in England.

The Syndicalist's Open Letter to the Soldiers.

[THE cables report that Guy Bowman and Benjamin Bull, printers, have been charged with publishing treasonable matter in the *Syndicalist*—the official organ of the Industrial Syndicalist Education League, of which Tom Mann is president. Guy Bowman was formerly business manager of *Justice* and the Twentieth Century Press. The following "Open Letter to the British Soldiers" appeared in the January number of the *Syndicalist* (which only appears monthly), and is probably the article on which the prosecution is based. Our Australian Conscripts should study the truths that are in it, and they should get ready to live up to its precepts.]

MEN! Comrades! Brothers!

You are in the army.

So are We. You, are in the army of Destruction. We, in the Industrial, or army of Construction.

We work at mine, mill, forge, factory, or dock, etc., producing and transporting all the goods, clothing, stuffs, etc., which make it possible for people to live.

You are Workingmen's Sons.

When We go on Strike to better Our lot, which is the lot also of Your Fathers, Mothers, Brothers, and Sisters, YOU are called upon by your officers to MURDER US.

Don't do it!

You know how it happens. Always has happened.

We stand out as long as we can. Then one of our (and your) irresponsible Brothers, goaded by the sight and thought of his and his loved ones' misery and hunger, commits a crime on property. Immediately You are ordered to Murder Us, as You did at Mitchellstown, at Featherstone, at Belfast.

Don't You know, that when You are out of the colors and become a "Civy" again, that You, like Us, may be on Strike, and You, like Us, be liable to be Murdered by other soldiers?

Boys, Don't Do It!

"Thou Shalt Not Kill," says the Book.

Don't Forget That!

It does not say, "unless you have a uniform on."

No! MURDER IS MURDER, whether committed in the heat of anger on one who has wronged a loved one or by pipe-clayed Tommies with rifles.

Boys, Don't Do It!

Act the Man! Act the Brother! Act the Human Being!

Property can be replaced! Human life, never!

The Idle Rich Class, who own and order you about, own and order us about also. They and their friends own the land and means of life of Britain.

You Don't. We Don't.

When We kick they order You to Murder Us.

When You kick You get court-martialled and cells.

Your fight is Our fight. Instead of fighting Against each other We should be fighting With each other.

Out of Our loins, Our lives, Our homes, You came.

Don't disgrace Your Parents, Your Class, by being the willing tools any longer of the Master Class.

You, like Us, are of the Slave Class. When We rise You rise, when We fall, even by your bullets, Ye fall also.

England, with its fertile valleys and dells, its mineral resources, its sea harvests, is the heritage of ages to us.

You, no doubt, joined the Army out of poverty.

We work long hours for small wages at hard work because of Our poverty. And both Your poverty and Ours arises from the fact that Britain, with its resources, belongs to only a few people. These few, owning Britain, own Our jobs. Owning our jobs, they own Our very Lives. Comrades, have we called in vain? Think things out and refuse any longer to Murder Your Kindred. Help US to win back Britain for the British and the World for the Workers!

Industrial Workers of the World.

Australian Administration: E. Moyle, general sec.-treasurer, Socialist Hall, Wakefield-street, Adelaide.

Sydney Local: Geo. G. Reeves, sec.-treasurer, 222 Cumberland-street, Sydney.

AT the last meeting of the Sydney Local of the above, held at the Queen's Hall, the following motions were carried:

"That the members of the Northern Miners' Federation be congratulated on voting down the Labor Party's Conscription Act."

"That the Industrial Workers of the World condemn the action of the N.S.W. Labor Government in not releasing Messrs. Williams, Scully, Hayes, and Hatton—the four men imprisoned in connection with the alleged Lithgow riot, and the members of the I.W.W. in meeting assembled hereby demand their release forthwith."

On Sunday, Jan. 28, Percy Hurst and 25 others were arrested in connection with the Vancouver Free Speech Fight. An interesting account of the police attack on the meetings will be printed in our next issue.

More Organised Scabbery.

ONCE more the Executive of the Seamen's Union comes unfavorably into the limelight. In a circular (dated Feb. 22) to the members, the executive of the Queensland Branch details the events that led up to the general strike, and, after emphasing the general principle that was at stake, goes on to describe how the general executive of the Seamen's Union was wired to on Jan. 23 as follows:

Trouble with tramway employees likely to be serious. May involve our members. Special meeting Sunday to consider position. What stand will I take?"

The executive didn't even reply to this, and on Jan. 27 another wire was despatched:

Individual members pledge themselves not to handle scab cargo or work with scab labor. Councillors concur.

On the afternoon of the 27th a wire came from the general secretary, which practically ordered the seamen to blackleg:

Trouble tramway employees. Cannot pledge this Union. Executive must decide our action. Wiring Melbourne, Adelaide.—(Signed) COOPER.

The Brisbane seamen refused to do scab work, and the Queensland Branch, while the strike was progressing, was notified BY WIRE that motions had been carried by the other Branches censuring Queensland Branch, but the Queensland Branch has not even been told what it was censured for; and the Branch Executive declares that it believes the true facts of the trouble were not placed before the other branches. The Branch also declares that although the general secretary asserts in his wire that he has consulted the Councillors, the two representing the Queensland Branch received no communication from him. Anyhow, even if censure motions were carried according to rule, to censure unionists for refusing to scab is an act of dastardly scabbery on the part of those who carry the motions.

It is further pointed out that, although the Executive officers, or the whole Executive, were on two occasions, requested by wire to come to Brisbane during the trouble, these requests were met with point blank refusals; and members are asked to note the difference on this occasion and that of the sugar-workers' trouble, when both the president and secretary came to the seat of trouble, although they were informed that the two Councillors for Queensland were there and were prepared to act.

"We feel sure," the Queensland Branch Executive concludes, "that when the members realise the position of this Branch at such a critical time, they will concur with us in the action we have taken in preventing and protecting our members from being branded as scabs, *although the general secretary wired to the crews of ships in this port to obey all lawful commands, which means that if the men do this they must be branded as scabs.*"

Apparently, in an endeavor to get the seamen to scab, Mr. Cooper and the Executive went right over the heads of the Queensland Executive and communicated with the individual crews.

No one, knowing the story of the Sonoma case, and the still later story of the Freemantle scabbery, will wonder at anything Messrs. Guthrie, Cooper, and Co. do.

Mt. Morgan's Roll of Honor.

THE Amalgamated Workers' Association of Queensland (Central District Committee), Mount Morgan, sends the following:

Names of late members who were "loyal" to the M.M.G.M. Co. during the late strike: J. Kirkwood, miner, late of Gladstone; J. Hume, pointsman; Jim Harkins, copper works; Dug. Price, copper works; J. Bergin, miner, late of Gympie; Charles Wise, miner; Dave Higgins, miner; T. W. Hunt; J. Doherty; J. Buckton, miner (Chummy); R. Greenhalgh; T. Plunkett; A. Blanning; A. Needer, late of Emerald; A. Livingstone, late of Gympie; W. Sheedy, late of Springsure; George (Snorkey) Morris, late of Howard; Ike Clayson, sen., blacksmith; Tom Addison; D. Cadwallader; J. Howells, late of Gympie; John Halloran, sen.; J. Halloran, jun.; Jack Shepherd; G. Morrison, late of Gympie and Mount Perry.

The following coupon holders, i.e., those who have part-paid for a ticket, were also "loyal" to the Company: J. Nightingale, C. Blunderfield, (Stump) McMillan, Tom Roberts, A. Desborough, J. Kapetske, T. Rodgers, J. D. Finlayson, J. Doolan, sen., W. Bailey, H. Last, W. Kane, F. Weaver, A. Norris, A. Jorgensen.

The following came from Marmor to be "loyal" to the Company during the first call out: W. Burr, R. McConnell, J. Hood, E. Smithwick, Fred. Rabinot, J. Cornwall, R. Ross (Barnaddi), Joe Wearne, S. Miller, A. Munro, W. Muller. Tom. Spreadborough, L. Wislon, T. Seaman, W. Thomas, C. Mansfield, C. Miller, J. Jones, G. Lucas, W. Englardt, Ike Spreadborough, J. Evans, J. Rosewood, Maurice Hogan, D. Miller.

A further list will possibly be forwarded later on.—H. A. BROWNBILL, District Secretary.

Bob Semple will speak in Sydney on his return from the country. Watch for announcement.

Balmain Free Speech Fight.

WHEN the Balmain Council met on Tuesday of last week, among the correspondence were two letters from Balmain Branch, S.F.A., one pointing out that A. P. Montgomery had no existence, and the other conveying the resolution condemning the Council for its anti-free speech campaign.

When the latter communication was read "Hear, hear!" came emphatically from the back of the hall. Ald. Young, with bristling whiskers and wrath in his voice, arose and said there were strangers in the gallery and demanded that the gallery be cleared.

The Mayor didn't catch on to this convenient method of dealing with the free-speech trouble in secret, and the correspondence was received.

Later in the evening, the report of the General Purposes Committee was read. It evaded all the pertinent questions raised in the Balmain Socialists' letter to the Council, and baldly recommended that the Council adhere to its previous decision—that the instructions to the police to take the names of the Socialist speakers (while those of the religious bodies are not interfered with) be persisted in.

Newly-elected Mayor Clubb moved that the report be adopted. He said that complaints concerning the Socialist meetings were laid in open Council by Ald. Young before Montgomery's letter was received.

Ald. Jesson wished to refer the report back to the G.P. Committee. He said that in the city and other places meetings were held, and those who didn't want to hear the Socialists needn't attend their meetings. If they were going to stop one section, then they had better tell the members of Parliament that they must not speak there again; and even the aldermen should not be permitted to address meetings.

Ald. Campbell favored upholding the action already taken, but deprecated singling out any one section. If they were going to administer the ordinance at all, it should be in its entirety, and that would mean the total suppression of all open-air meetings in Balmain.

Ald. Young made the remarkable (and unsubstantiated) statement that there had been complaints from a large number of people about the Socialist meetings.

Ald. Laws supported the amendment to refer the matter back. He had gone out as a member of the Christian Church and had preached the truth as he saw it—and if an endeavor were made to prevent him doing that he would be ready to pay the penalty. Was the Council prepared to say that all the religious bodies must not hold outdoor meetings? If not, they had no right to stop the Socialists. If the Socialists were not loyal to the king, and preached sedition, that was a different matter; but the Council certainly had no right to pick out one particular body for suppression.

Ald. Cohen (the late Mayor) explained what led up to action being taken. The Council's action had been unanimous, and he urged that they should stand by their decision, and not throw somersaults. He further insisted that in enforcing the by-law no distinctions should be made; and if this were done there must be no freedom of speech in Balmain.

Ald. Thornton said there was only one course to pursue. The police—not the Council—had taken action, and the Council must stand by the police. He thought street speaking should not be allowed. There was no question of freedom of speech involved. (Even Ald. Young seemed to smile at this assertion.)

The amendment was defeated, and the Mayor's motion carried, by seven votes to two. The division was as follows:

For Freedom of Speech:

JESSON
LAWS

Against Freedom of Speech:

CLUBB	THORTON
COHEN	CAMPBELL
SWAN	DINGWELL
YOUNG	

The Balmain Socialists and THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST will keep that division list on file, and when the anti-free speech men next seek the brick-and-mortar votes of Balmain, they will hear several things they won't like to hear.

To print the *Syndicalist's* "sedition" article we are forced to crowd out a special article on the Paris Commune.

Sydney Propaganda Fixtures.

SATURDAY.

Rozelle—Slade.
Newtown—Riley, Duffield, Walsh.
Leichhardt—Knight (chair), James, Young.
Bathurst-street—Grant, Johnson

SUNDAY.

Domain—Slade (chair), Rutherford, Holland, and Riley.
Market-street—Chambers (chair), Grant, James.
Newtown—Duffield, Rutherford, Walsh.
Balmain—Riley, Slade.

Press Fund.

Already acknowledged, £141 15s 8d. Collected at Club Social, 8s 2d. Total, £142 3s 10d.

Party Premises Fund.

Previously acknowledged, £20 7s 11d. Domain collection, £1 3s. Total, £21 10s 11d.

S.F.A. News & Notes.

National Executive.

MEETING of Ad. Council, Monday, Mar. 11. Present: Rutherford and Winspear (Sydney), McKerlie (Balmain), Slade (Newtown), and Holland, gen. sec.

Correspondence was received from N.Z. Socialist Party, stating that it would not be possible to send a delegate to this year's S.F.A. Conference, on account of N.S. Conference also sitting at Easter, and suggesting that if the Australian Conference fixed a lump sum as sustentation from N.Z., a linking-up arrangement could be easily effected. —Resolved that the letter be referred to Conference.

Newtown.

Saturday night's meeting on the Bridge was very successful. There was a big attendance, though it rained all the evening. Duffield opened, and was followed by Riley, who delivered a splendid speech. Grant stirred the meeting to enthusiasm, and got a fine hearing. Walsh, who is always warmly welcomed by the audience, spoke on till a constable came at 6 minutes to 10, and told him to cease speaking. You see, it *does* make a difference when the P.L.L. isn't there!

Sunday night's meeting was equally successful. Duffield, Walsh, and Harris each got a splendid hearing. All literature sold. —ANNIE DUFFIELD, sec.

Leichhardt-Annandale.

Knight and Slade, with Young in the chair, had a fine meeting at Leichhardt on Saturday night, notwithstanding the weather. Slade held the audience for two hours, and all the papers were sold.

Sydney.

Tom Bloodworth and Mrs. Bloodworth (recently wedded at Auckland, N.Z., and now en route to England, arrived in Sydney late on Friday night, and on Saturday visited Socialist headquarters. On Sunday afternoon T.B. was a warmly-welcomed speaker at the Domain meeting. On Sunday evening our comrades were entertained at tea on the verandah of the kiosk in Phillip Park, when W.R.W. presided, and happy speeches were made by James, Rutherford, Grant, Duffield, Slade, Gaum, Holland, Bloodworth, and (the best speech of all) Mrs. Bloodworth. Our visitors expect to sail from Sydney on Wednesday of this week.

The feature of the Domain meeting (presided over by Rutherford) was Holland's two-hours' lecture on "The Story of the Ages," an effort that was followed by the audience with unflagging interest from beginning to end, and that at its conclusion was rewarded with an outburst of enthusiastic appreciation.

At Market-street on Suday night, another magnificent meeting was held, the speakers being Slade, Bloodworth, and James.

Another visitor from Westralia is comrade C. Rash, of the Eastern Goldfields S.D.F., Kalgoorlie.

Roche will be released on Feb. 20, and comrades are urged to be at Darlinghurst on that date (Wednesday next), at 6.30 a.m., to welcome him back with Socialist cheers when the jail gates swing open. A welcome social will be held at headquarters on Thursday night, March 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Waterhouse visited comrade Roche at the jail last week. He was looking well, and was in great spirit.

ON Monday, March 18, a special demonstration will be held at the Socialist Headquarters, 274 Pitt-street, Sydney, to commemorate the Paris Commune. There will be congregational singing and other musical items, Holland and others will speak, and the meeting will be held under joint auspices of Club and Party. All members and other friends are invited to attend.

Port Pirie.

Comrade Cesare has successfully come through the severe operation he had to undergo for appendicitis. He is returning to Port Pirie, and desires to thank Dr. Aitkens and the Jamestown Hospital staff for their kindly treatment and the unremitting attention bestowed upon him during his illness.

Melbourne.

At last night's general meeting, the following motion was unanimously carried—"That this meeting condemns the action of the Balmain Council in its prosecution and imprisonment of comrade Roche, for claiming the same liberty of speech as is enjoyed by all organisations, religious and otherwise.—J. R. WILSON, sec. (29.2.12.)

Balmain.

On Saturday at Rozelle, M. Moore, chair, James, C. Moore, and Talbot spoke to a good audience. On Sunday, at Rowntree-street, Hainsworth and Bowen spoke, and a collection was taken for the Free Speech Fund. A trap came driving along Rowntree-street, on the wrong side, and the driver wanted the audience to get out of the way, but the people present made the driver take his proper side of the road.

The usual business meeting will be held next Tuesday at the Oddfellows' Hall, Darling-street, Balmain.

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A SONNET.

[For The International Socialist.]

BY GUS. ANDERSON.

The Poet cannot bend a lowly knee
Before the throne of tyrants, or make Wrong
The theme of a divine and living song.
The times demand that he be bold and free—
A power for Truth, a voice for Liberty.
Earth's tyrants have upheld the Ancient Wrong
And stifled Truth, and crushed the poor, too long,
But now the New Day dawns, when all may see.

In all things noble may the Poet find
A theme for song: The glory of the earth,
The growing gladness of the enlightened mind,
The growing freedom for all human worth;
The brighter day whose sun now climbs the sky,
Cloud-hidden yet, but with full glory nigh.

N.Z. Federation of Labor.

Its History and its Principles.

"Bob" Semple Interviewed.

BY H. E. HOLLAND.

Robert Semple—"the fighting agitator of Maoriland"—general organiser for the New Zealand Federation of Labor, arrived in Sydney on Tuesday of last week. His mission is to take the first steps towards linking up the coal miners, coal lumpers, and waterside workers generally with the N.Z.F.L., "in order to prevent scabbing in time of trouble."

Rather tall and sparingly built, Mr. Semple is a most unassuming personality, and the passer-by would scarcely dream that the plainly-dressed, mild-looking citizen sauntering along George-street could be the man whose name is a household word in every N.Z. industrial centre, and who exercises a greater influence in the industrial affairs of that country than any other individual.

A native of the Bathurst district, Semple worked at Lithgow, in the coal mines, and also in Victoria and Westralia (where he was a prominent figure in the Labor movement), he then found his way to the west coast of New Zealand some eight years ago. There, he says, he found no real unionism—only a form or shell of craft unionism under the sway of the Arbitration Court. The working-class was crushed, and New Zealand was for all practical purposes "a country without strikes." Such strikes as did take place—and they were few and far between—were woefully isolated and wholly sectional. The absence of strikes was not because there was not any reason for them, but because the working-class had been chloroformed with Arbitration and side-tracked by trades union officialdom, and the militant spirit was sleeping. The Arbitration Court undoubtedly suited the office-seekers and those men who desired to live upon the gullibility of the workers. The craft union officials had no organising worries—they simply sat back and collected the contributions either personally or through the courts. Indeed, the secretaries of unions have been known to personally serve the summonses for arrears of subscriptions. At the end of each three years' period, the officials appeared before the court, and in nine cases out of ten the old award was re-enacted. Wellington, Auckland, and other waterside workers had not received either rise in wages or improvement in conditions for more than 20 years, although they had repeatedly appealed to the court, and this notwithstanding the increased cost of living. In Wellington's case the only alteration was in the direction of a reduction.

During the first year of his residence in New Zealand, Mr. Semple says, he made a special study of the Arbitration Act and the procedure of the Court before attempting to condemn it in any shape or form, and in due time came to the conclusion that in its effect it was both degrading and humiliating in the extreme to the workers, and that as a court of justice it was a mere mockery. "The Court is constituted of one representative from the employees' side, one from the employers' side, and a judge of the Supreme Court. The judge belongs by all the circumstances of birth, training, and material interests to the employing class; he can have nothing in common with the working-class; like all the rest of us, he is the product of his environment. His class position makes him an opponent of the working class. And the judge has supreme power; there is no appeal from his decisions. The workers' representative on the Court is a mere figure-piece. The employers are always represented before the Court by a legally-trained person, although not a lawyer—lawyers are not permitted to appear before the Arbitration Court—and the same bullying and brow-beating tactics are indulged in as in the police and criminal courts. I have heard a worker, giving evidence in the Arbitration Court in support of increased wages, questioned and scolded and lectured by the presiding judge as if he were a most hopeless criminal. Questions are asked the working-men, and replies demanded, concerning the secrets of their home life. It is a common thing for the judge to demand information as to the quality of the dresses the witness's wife wears, particulars concerning the cost of her underclothing, the quantity and quality of the food consumed in the home, and other items. If a witness declines to answer, he is subjected to bluster and bounce. In short," says Mr. Semple, "the man who asks the Arbitration Court for a few crumbs from the table of the master class is treated with no more respect by the Court than is the convicted criminal. Indeed, the criminal gets the better deal, for he has a court of appeal. No matter how unsatisfactory or how ridiculous the Arbitration Court's award may be, if the worker rebels against it, and ceases work by way of protest, he is liable to be treated as a criminal.

"For more than 20 years the New Zealand workers endured this brand of justice—for more than 20 years they plucked the ripe fruit of the judicial tree. And now they have decided to fling overboard the obselete institution, and to organise on revolutionary industrial lines.

"Four years ago, on the west coast, the Federation was born in the mining village of Runanga, where one of the State coal mines is located. At first it was called the Federation of Miners; but at the second yearly conference it was decided to open the doors to all wage-workers, and the name was accordingly changed to the Federation of Labor. At first only a few mining bodies were included, and for a couple of years no attempt was made to bring other organisations into the Federation. The miners were satisfied to carry on an active propaganda and to find the money for the dissemination of literature on industrial unionism among the workers. They held that momentary enthusiasm, born of platform eloquence, only tended to weakness, and were determined that all who entered their ranks should understand what they were organising for. This method of educational propaganda before enlisting has been wholly justified. In all the troubles the organisation has had to face on the industrial field, there has never been one blackleg—never a scab—from either inside or outside the Federation. All the industrial struggles have been brief, and all have been won, and this is due to the fact that there have been no signs of internal weakness—no 'scabbery.'

"During the last year or so, the Federation of Labor has grown by leaps and bounds. In those centres where it is felt sufficient educational work has been done, arrangements are made for a referendum to decide whether the bodies concerned shall come in. No organisation is permitted to enter the Federation of Labor until a referendum has been taken—and thus every member decides for himself.

"First, the Auckland General Laborers, then the Brewery Workers, and next the West Coast General Laborers affiliated. Fifteen months ago, the Shearers (the first large body) entered the Federation, and these were followed in order by the Auckland Tramway Employees, the Flax Milling Workers, and lastly the Waterside Workers. Other smaller unions have also come in. One of the big factors the Federation has had to fight has been the opposition of the trade union officials, who bitterly resent the Federation's antagonism to Compulsory Arbitration.

"Numerous other unions are ready to fall into line, but the Federation is hastening slowly in the matter of numerical strength. There is a solid feeling that class-conscious strength is of far more consequence than mere numbers.

"The Federation's first big fight was in 1908, when the Government enacted a measure making it compulsory for every worker to undergo a medical examination before being permitted to work. Every person suffering with hereditary or other disease or physical injury could only work after signing an agreement not to claim compensation in the event of accident. A worker in search of employment, on applying for a vacancy, would be sent to a doctor, stripped, and examined. This custom had been in operation for seven years in the mining centres of Denison and Millerton, where it had been tolerated, and the Government sought to apply it to the whole of New Zealand. However, the moment an endeavor was made to administer the new law, the Federation of Labor advised the working class to resist it. There was a great howl from the press, and the moderates denounced the Federation men as law-breakers, etc., but the result of the Federation's resistance was that in six weeks' time the Government undertook to repeal the measure.

"The next trouble was at the State coal mine at Runanga. The number of preventable accidents in this mine was appalling; the miners could get no redress from the Arbitration Court; the Government wouldn't even grant an interview. The miners were called out, the fight lasted but three weeks, and the Government was compelled to meet the men in open conference. The result was that the working conditions were completely revolutionised, and the wages increased.

"The Waihi gold-miners' dispute was next taken in hand. For years they had worked under humiliating conditions; for years they had appealed to the court. Their first court case cost them over £1000, and all they got for that huge expenditure was 7s 6d a day for general laborers around the mine, and similar conditions throughout. The competitive contract system there was the worst in the southern hemisphere; the sub-contracting system was also in operation, one worker sweating the other. The Waihi Co. had paid over £4,000,000 in dividends, and in machinery and other assets and dividends had piled up over £9,000,000—squeezed out of the workers. In spite of this, the Court refused to alter conditions or increase wages. Evidence was tendered as to the wholesale slaughter of men in the mines, but the judge declared they were there to fix wages and not to consider other things. He said there was no sentiment in business. The Federation of Labor got the miners organised and affiliated. The miners, by a huge majority, decided to cancel their registration with the Court. Then, without a strike, merely by force of their organisation, they wrung from the Co. advances of wages, and improved conditions, and inaugurated a system of co-operative contract, where all the men share alike, and no worker sweats his fellows. There is no influence to-day that would entice the Waihi miners (or any section of the Federation of Labor, for that matter) to touch the Arbitration Act.

"The Auckland Drainage workers were the next to strike. The City Council endeavored to institute the butty-gang system—that worst form of sub-contracting, where one worker takes the contract and sweats the others. The workers resisted, and they had to fight both the City Fathers and the Drainage Board. The strike only lasted five days. The power of the Federation compelled a speedy settlement and the abandonment of the contract system.

"Wellington was the scene of the next conflict. For 20 years the waterside men had received no improvement, but only a reduction. Conditions were positively awful. Men were bought and sold like sheep, metaphorically speaking; they scrambled for jobs; they were herded like cattle; they were sworn at like dogs. After two years' educational and organising work by the Federation a ballot was taken to decide whether they would cancel their Court registration and join the Federation. There are 1100 members. Of these 1020 voted for cancellation, and only 80 against! Ballots in other unions have had similar results. The ballot over, the Federation set to work to secure improved conditions at the waterside, not through the Arbitration Court, but by the economic might of the workers. They met the representatives of the Shipping Rings (Webb and Semple representing the Federation, with delegates from the waterside workers), and for the first time in their history secured marked improvement in conditions and an all-round increase in wages totalling between £150,000 and £200,000 a year.

"The Auckland Tramway Workers then got out of the Court. Fixing on the Xmas holidays period as the time for action, they gave a few hours' notice of their intention to cease work and lay the tram system idle unless their demands were conceded; and although only a small body, the increases they compelled totalled more than £10,000 a year, while they secured remarkable changes in their working conditions.

"The last fight was that of the Wellington Tramway Workers to abolish the Pimp System. This body was registered in the Court, and was not a part of the Federation. The men had endured the torture of the Pimp System for several months. They had made application to the City Council (by whom the trains are controlled) for relief from the system; but, because they were bound by the law and isolated as a craft union, the Council quite understood their weakness and snubbed them accordingly, deciding by unanimous vote to maintain the pimps. Recognising that the tram men had a bona fide grievance, and that they were unable to fight the Federation issued a manifesto calling upon them to be loyal to principle, urging them to defy the immoral law that would tie them down and force them to surrender their manhood, and calling upon them to put their trams in the sheds This they did, and the Federation, in conjunction with the Wellington Trades Council, organised the fight. Tom Young, local secretary of the Seamen's Union, was elected chairman of the Strike Committee, and put up a splendid fight, taking up a similar stand to the Federation of Labor, and urging that the objectionable law should be defied. The result was that the strike lasted only a few days. There was not one scab. There was not even the sign of scabbery, internal or otherwise. On the first Sunday after the cessation of work, a meeting attended by thousands was held in the Basin Reserve. There was tremendous enthusiasm, and a resolution was carried unanimously requesting the City Council to settle the trouble on the terms of the Strike Committee or otherwise resign their positions. On top of that great meeting, the Strike Committee gave the Council till 12 o'clock next day (Monday) to come to terms, intimating that if no settlement was arrived at by that hour, the industrial clock would stop. Every union in Wellington, whether registered or not, had pledged that its members would cease work. Even the Tailoresses had announced that they would use neither machine nor needle after 12 on that Monday if the Tramway men were not back at work. Sir Joseph Ward was among those who saw the serious side of the situation, and even he urged the Council to give way. At 11 o'clock the Council surrendered; the pimps went, and victory was with the union.

"Many other smaller disputes have been handled with equal success.

"The Arbitration Court has outlived whatever usefulness it may have had, and the N.Z. workers in the Federation of Labor have had sufficient experience to know that the only form of organisation that can serve their emancipation is one built on the foundation of the class struggle. They are fully conscious of the fact that their interests are identical and that they have nothing in common with the master class. They recognise that an injury to one is an injury to all. Their objective is the socialization of the whole means of production and exchange. They do not organise with a view only of getting 2d here and 3d there, but to get rid of the exploiting class, knowing that so long as there are robbers and robbed there can be no peace. They are proclaiming that the workers alone are the producers of all wealth, and hence they are making the goal of their organization the full product of their labor. They recognise, too, that the craft union belongs to an obsolete period and can no longer serve any useful working-class purpose. Therefore, the N.Z. Federation of Labor has declared for Revolutionary Industrial Unionism, and along these lines it will move until working-class emancipation is achieved."

International Notes.

Switzerland.

Dr. Simon, a son-in-law of August Bebel, and a well-known bacteriologist, died in Berne, Switzerland, as a result of having been bitten by an inoculated mouse, with which he was experimenting in an endeavor to find a serum for curing blood-poison. Simon was as active in the Socialist movement of Switzerland as his professional duties would allow.

Great Britain.

At a meeting of the Bristol Trades Council comrade Widdicombe moved, and comrade Noakes seconded, the following resolution: "That this Council condemns the gross inactivity of the Labor Party in permitting the last Parliamentary Session to close without raising the question of the biased and savage sentences passed upon Messrs. Hopla and John, the Welsh miners. It now calls upon the Party, as soon as Parliament opens, to make determined efforts in the House of Commons to obtain the immediate release of those victims of judicial vindictiveness." Councillor Sennington hotly opposed the Labor Party being condemned; but, after a "sledge-hammer" reply from comrade Widdicombe, the Council passed the resolution by a big majority.

Argentina.

La Protesta, in a recent issue, publishes the following, addressed to The Free Men of the World:—"There exists neither free assembly nor free press in the Argentine Republic, a country which pretends to have closely followed in the footsteps of all other civilised nations. The places where the workers hold their meetings are arbitrarily raided by the authorities. All those who are known to have free ideas are expelled or incarcerated. The 'free' press has to be published clandestinely. Workers, do not emigrate to the Argentine, where there is no liberty; the well-being they boast so much about is nothing but an infamous make-believe. (Libertarian papers are requested to reprint the above.)"

Belgium.

Lieutenant de Lepine, lately mentioned by Vandervelde in connection with the Congo atrocities, forced his way into the Chamber, and was on the point of attacking Vandervelde, who, however, forestalled him by giving him a blow in the face, whereupon Lepine withdrew from the Chamber.

Germany.

Leopold Liepmann, secretary of the Party Organisation of Greater Berlin, died on January 26, after a very long illness, culminating in the amputation of one of his legs, which was the immediate cause of death. He was 56 years of age, and had at different times filled most of the posts of honor in the Party.

Austria.

The Socialist Party lost two of its deputies in the Reichsrat: Comrade Silberer, who was mortally wounded on a ski tour, and whose body has not yet been found, and Arnold Riese, who died at the hospital at Klagenfurt.

South Africa.

Comrade Crawford was billed to appear on Feb. 12 before the court on a charge of libel preferred by a parson man named Walt. This is Crawford's third libel case since he has been running the *Voice of Labor*—proof that he is getting in good work.

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